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## Carlos Marcello



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CARLOS MARCELLO, the Mafia boss who has died in New Orleans aged 83, was alleged by some to be the mastermind behind the assassination of President Kennedy.

At the time of the assassination, Marcello headed the most important Mafia "family" of the southern states, with gambling and prostitution rackets in New Orleans.

The FBI arrested Marcello three days after the murder, following an anonymous tip off. But he was soon released.

It was not until 1967 — three years after the Warren Commission concluded that the murder was the work of a lone assassin, Lee Harvey Oswald — that the possibility of Mafia involvement became the subject of intense speculation.

That February Jim Garrison, New Orleans District Attorney, announced that he had uncovered an assassination conspiracy and would prosecute the culprits.

One of his key suspects was David Ferrie, a pilot employed by Marcello.

Marcello provided an alibi for Ferrie, claiming he was with him in New Orleans on Nov 22, the day of the assassination. What was never in dispute was that Ferrie was back in Texas within hours of Kennedy's death.

When a group of journalists, having tracked down Garrison's prime suspect, descended on Ferrie's flat, they found he had died of a cerebral haemorrhage.

In fact it was never Garrison's intention to implicate Marcello or the Mafia.

He always wanted to pin the assassination on a collusion between the political and business establishment and the CIA.

With the co-operation of the mob, Ferrie, a right-wing extremist who detested the Kennedys, would have made the perfect fall guy.

After Ferrie's death, Garrison staunchly defended Marcello, whom he described on national television as a "respectable businessman".

Marcello's possible involvement in a conspiracy was closely scrutinised by the House of Representatives' assassinations committee, which sat between 1977 and 1979.

The committee established a link between Marcello and Oswald.

It transpired that Oswald's uncle and "surrogate father" was a bookmaker named Charles "Dutz" Murrell, a linchpin in Marcello's illegal gambling operations.

They uncovered a connection between the Mafia boss and Oswald's killer, Jack Ruby.

"Considerable evidence" existed, they reported, to suggest that Ruby met Marcello's closest ally, the Tampa Mafia boss Santos Trafficante, Jr, in Cuba in 1959.

The committee concluded that at least two gunmen fired at President Kennedy, that critical evidence had been suppressed, and that the Mob had the "motive, means and opportunity" to kill him.

The report named Marcello, and his friend Trafficante, as the two men "most likely" to be behind the conspiracy. But it drew no firm conclusion as to who killed



Marcello: Mafia boss

the president. No charges were made.

Marcello always denied any involvement in the Kennedy assassination, as he did in any kind of organised crime. "I know nothing about the Mafia," he used to say, "I am just a successful tomato salesman with a few real estate interests."

Carlos Marcello was born in New Orleans in 1910, the second generation of an Italian family that came to Louisiana in the 1880s.

At the age of 20 he was convicted of assault and robbery and sentenced to 14 years in prison. But in 1935, after serving less than five years, he received a free pardon from the Louisiana Governor.

For the next few years his underworld career was marked by numerous offences. These included sales of narcotics and assaulting a policeman with intent to murder, for which he was charged, but never prosecuted.

Finally convicted for drug sales in 1938, he served just 10 months of a lengthy sentence.

In 1953 federal deportation proceedings were issued against him, but his lawyers thwarted the authorities with endless delaying manoeuvres. Marcello spent a record amount for legal fees in such a case.

In 1961, under orders from Robert Kennedy (then Attorney-General), Marcello was arrested and summarily flown to Guatemala. He returned secretly only to find himself arrested again and charged with fraud, perjury, and illegal re-entry.

After a trial, marred by alleged jury tampering and a plot to murder a key prosecution witness, he was acquitted. The verdict was announced just three hours after President Kennedy was assassinated.

From that point his "business interests" boomed. The *Saturday Evening Post* reported in 1964 that the Mafia's annual income in New Orleans "runs to \$1,114,000,000, making it by far the State's largest industry."

In the 1970s Marcello was referred to by the *Wall Street Journal* as "the undisputed patriarch of the Cosa Nostra in Louisiana and the nearby Gulf Coast area."

It was not until 1982 that Marcello again saw the inside of a prison — having been convicted of trying to bribe an Appeal Court judge. He continued to give orders from jail while his brothers managed the family's concerns.

But, each time some ghastly event such as the recent baby-murder hits the front pages, the same old process of Let's Knock Liverpool starts up. The world's media descend in droves on any patch of dereliction they can find — and they usually call it "Toxteth" (which is the name of the entire southern half of Liverpool, full of wooded parks, tree-lined streets and restored merchant palaces with rolling lawns: our wild-life, unlike inner London's, usually has four legs).

As after the Hillsborough tragedy and the Bulger case, the most stupid-looking Scouser is always invited before the microphone and camera for the obligatory vox-pop — presumably after being auditioned to make sure he is the authentic, thick-voiced yobbo, ignorance shining from his every pore, with the proper, whining local accent.

Beatlemania of the 1960s made Liverpool extra-fashionable. In those days, publishers scoured the local pubs to commission first novels from Scouse layabouts. You could hardly reach the bar of the Philharmonic Hotel without falling over a drunken Liverpool poet or two. Even when the Fab Four decamped to the Surrey stockbroker belt, they carefully nurtured their adenoideal Liverpool tones

Liverpoolians are never allowed to forget Heysel and Hillsborough.

Attacks on Liverpool, in their turn, always produce a mindless siege mentality, an hysterical local patriotism almost reminiscent of wartime.

After Hillsborough, anyone who dared suggest that one or two Liverpool supporters might, just possibly, have pushed

and shoved, or even been very slightly tipsy, was reviled as a traitor. There were organised campaigns to boycott tabloids which had printed, as tabloids will, often wildly inaccurate reports.

Alas, on Merseyside as elsewhere, the yobbo is in the ascendancy: for one thing, he reproduces faster than the middle class, for "me girlfriend" is always pregnant. He is more open than the majority of decent citizens to joining the mawkish mass hysteria that is generated every time the media circus turns its attention to some new tragedy.

By the end of the week after the James Bulger killing, the local evening paper had published more than 1,000 Deepest Sympathy notices in the form of large display advertisements, many from businesses glad to put their name before the public. There are now copycat tributes as much as copycat riots.

After Hillsborough the entire Anfield football ground was covered in red roses which, a week later, were swept up by mechanical shovels and dumped in the Mersey. And with every tragedy, roses treble in price.

## CHESS

# Oxford triumphs over Cambridge

By Malcolm Pein

THE annual varsity match between Oxford and Cambridge at the RAC Club in London ended in a 5-5-2-5 victory for Oxford.

It was Oxford's fourth successive win and its dominance of the match in the 80s is continuing into the 90s.

Oxford has lost only once since 1982 and overall leads by 48 wins to 46 with 17 draws.

On paper the sides were more evenly matched than in recent years with the exception of top board where Oxford fielded the former US champion, Stuart Rachels.

Rachels took the initiative early on with Black, won a piece, and defeated Australian Tim Reilly in the endgame. The following game was settled in a messy time scramble:

| J Cavendish - A Jones<br>Oxford-Cambridge (2) |      |         |      |
|-----------------------------------------------|------|---------|------|
| 1 Nf3                                         | f5   | 2 g3    | Nf6  |
| 3 Bg2                                         | g6   | 4 b3    | Bg7  |
| 5 Bb2                                         | 0-0  | 6 0-0   | c6   |
| 7 d4                                          | d5   | 8 Ne5   | Be6  |
| 9 Nd2                                         | Qe8  | 10 e4   | Nbd7 |
| 11 Nbd3                                       | Bf7  | 12 Rcl  | Ne4  |
| 13 e3                                         | g5   | 14 Re1  | Bh5  |
| 15 f3                                         | Nef6 | 16 b4   | Kh8  |
| 17 Nb3                                        | dxc4 | 18 Rxc4 | Nd5  |
| 19 Nbc5                                       | Nxc5 | 20 Rxc5 | b6   |
| 21 Rc2                                        | a5   | 22 Rxa5 | Rxa5 |
| 23 Qcl                                        | f4   | 24 exf4 | gx4  |
| 25 Nxf4                                       | Nxf4 | 26 gx4  | Rxa2 |
| 27 d5                                         | Rxb2 | 28 Rxb2 | cx4  |
| 29 Rbe2                                       | Qg6  | 30 Re6  | Bf6  |
| 31 Re5                                        | Bxf3 | 32 Rg5  | Bd4+ |

33 Re3 Qe4 34 Re5 Qxf4  
35 Re7 Be4 36 Kh1 0-1  
Watson Farley Williams varsity match results (Cambridge white on odd boards):

1 Rachels 1-0 Reilly, OGA 43; 2 Caven-  
dish 0-1 A Jones, Dutch 36; 3 Piper 1-0  
Hon; 4 Gough 1-0 Holland, Grunfeld 37;  
5 T Brown 1-0 Jakubovics, Alekhine 40;  
6 M Rose draw Hastings, Caro Kann 41;  
7 Newman 0-1 Foister, French 40; 8  
Heron 1-0 Mothersill, English 48.  
● In Linares, Kasparov plays  
black against Karpov today.  
Round 9 results: Shirov draw Ivanchuk;  
Ljubojevic 0-1 Karpov; Yusupov draw  
Belyavsky; Kasparov unf; Anand;  
Kamsky unf; Gelfand; Kramnik unf; Tim-  
man; Bareev unf; Salov.  
Scores: Anand 5 + 1 unf; Karpov 5.5 + 1  
sdj; Kasparov 5.5 + 1 unf; Shirov 5; Sa-  
lov & Kamsky 4 + 2 unf; Timman,  
Kramnik & Belyavsky 4 + 1 unf; Ivan-  
chuk 4; Yusupov 3.5; Bareev 3 + 1; Lju-  
bojevic 2 + 1 unf; Gelfand 2 + 1 unf.

## Bridge results

By Patrick Jourdain

Tony Waterlow, of Middlesex, and Paul Hackett, of Staffordshire, won the Grand Masters Pairs in Coventry by a clear margin. The 400 competitors in the two-day event English ranked pairs, were divided into five groups according to national grading.

Leading scores and group winners: Grand Masters: 1 P Hackett & A Water-  
low 771; 2 P Goodman & A Thomas 764;  
3 J Dzhondy & 1 Pagan 758; 4= Mrs J  
Casey & PD Jourdain (Cardiff), A Mac-  
nair & A Kay (Herts) 746.  
Life Masters: PD Bell & J C Roberts  
(Manchester); National Masters: 1 M  
Draper & Mrs CA Draper (Kent);  
Regional Masters: G Thompson & P  
Matters (Essex); Masters: M Taylor &  
G Jordan (Derby & Middles).